

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1949



Arthur Lucas

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To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Brackley.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1949 of the Medical Officer of Health and also that of Mr. Turbitt, Senior Sanitary Inspector for your area.

There have been no major epidemics in this area and the general health of the population has been good.

As will be seen the statistics compare favourably with those of England and Wales.

Housing has been going ahead but is frequently held up owing to shortage of material and not due to the inaction of the Council.

As regards sewage schemes these are held up owing to Ministry instructions, which is a great pity, as it retards the progress of the sanitation of the area.

I note with regret also the number of children who require dental treatment and are unable to get it owing to the shortage of staff on the Public Health side and the fact that the Dentists in general practice are too busy to attend to the conservation of children's teeth, which I regard as a major item in preventive medicine.

I thank the Sanitary Inspectors and their staff for all help, and appreciate the encouragement received from all Committees I have been in contact with during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

*Public Health Dept.,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.*

October, 1950.

Brackley Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council :

F. T. KIELDSEN, ESQ., J.P., C.C.

Vice Chairman of the Council :

J. N. GIBBARD, ESQ.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

MESSRS. J. N. GIBBARD (Chairman), E. H. BARKER, S. F. TILLEY, R. BARRETT, L. S. PROSSER, LT. COL. V. G. TOLER-AYLWARD (Vice-Chairman), LT. GEN. SIR B. N. SERGISON-BROOKE, MRS. M. E. JOHNSON, MRS. L. ACRID, C. C. BARRETT, CAPT. G. W. M. LEES.
L.C. BARTLETT.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Public Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health,

ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health in the Brackley Borough.

Medical Officer of Health in the Daventry Borough.

Medical Officer of Health in the Daventry R.D.C.

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northants County Council.

Assistant County School Medical Officer, Northants County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. TURBITT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. MAYHEW, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors :

P. E. ADAMS.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1949.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,482
Number of separate dwellings, occupied, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,034
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	£31,307
Product of a penny rate at 31st March, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	£109/17/3

Live Births		Total	Male	Female	Rate	England & Wales
					(per 1,000 population)	
Legitimate	...	163	79	84		
Illegitimate	...	7	2	5		
					17.9	16.7
		170	81	89		
Stillbirths						
Legitimate	...	2	2	0		
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0		
					0.21	0.39
		2	2	0		
					(per 1,000 population)	

Deaths (all causes)	124	62	62	13.08	11.7
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	<i>Nil.</i>
Other puerperal causes	<i>Nil.</i>

Infant Mortality—per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	...	5	4	1	29.8	
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	—	
Total	...	5	4	1	29.8	32.0

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	11
„	„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>
„	„	Measles	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>
„	„	Whooping Cough	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>

The registered causes of death were :—

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...			—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
7.	Tuberculosis—Other Forms	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis : Polio Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagous	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
18.	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	10	9	19
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	17	20	37
20.	Other Diseases of Circulation	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
27.	Other digestive Disorders	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
32.	Congenital Malformation : Birth Injury :							
	Infantile Disorders	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	7	10	17
						62	62	124

Population. The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General for the past six years are as follows :

1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
9,050	9,100	8,980	9,150	9,320	9,482

The natural increase in population, or the excess of births over deaths, was 46.

Death Rate 1943-49.

Year	Brackley				North-ampton-shire	England and Wales
	Total	M.	F.	Recorded Rate		
1943	164	82	82	17.3	12.29	12.10
1944	195	119	76	20.5	12.65	11.60
1945	175	91	78	19.2	12.34	11.40
1946	100	46	54	11.13	12.00	11.50
1947	149	85	64	16.28	12.43	12.00
1948	97	53	44	10.4	11.00	10.8
1949	124	62	62	13.0	*	11.7

Birth Rate 1943-49.

		1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Brackley	...	17.3	20.5	19.2	22.5	20.44	21.9	17.9
Northamptonshire		17.91	20.07	18.98	19.17	20.42	17.46	*
England and Wales	...	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7

Births. The number of live births assigned to this district was 170, compared with 205 in 1948. The birth rate for 1949 of 17.9, is less by 4.0 per thousand than the rate for 1948 and is higher than the rate of 16.7 for England and Wales.

Still-Birth Rate 1943-49.

		1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Brackley	...	12.05	10.15	22.36	19.41	15.79	14.42	11.76

Still-Births. The number of still-births during 1949 was 2 males (legitimate).

Illegitimate Births. There were 7 illegitimate births assigned to the district in 1949 (2 males, 5 females), 9 less than in 1948.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE, 1943-49. Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births.

		1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Brackley	...	48.9	35.9	17.14	44.5	42.78	29.27	29.8
Northamptonshire	...	40.4	38.00	39.17	36.86	35.07	31.67	*
England and Wales	...	49.00	46.00	46.00	43.00	41.00	34.00	32.00

* Not available

The number of children who died before reaching their first birthday was five.

Maternal Mortality. It is pleasing to note that again in 1949 there were no deaths from Puerperal Causes, or conditions allied to childbirth.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the examination of milk, ice cream and water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. This service is entirely free.

(b) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Under an agreement between the County Council and the County Nursing Association, the services of a nurse may be obtained for the treatment of patients suffering from puerperal fever, puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, whooping cough, diarrhoea in young children, poliomyelitis, measles, and cerebro spinal fever, but owing to the acute shortage of nursing staff, it would almost be impossible to fulfil this agreement.

(c) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Infant Welfare—Brackley.	}	Organised by County Council.
Orthopædic Clinic.		
Vision Clinic.		
Ante-Natal Clinic, Middleton Cheney.		

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. I cannot unduly stress the urgent need for adequate sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in many parishes in the district. Especially is this necessary to facilitate proper house drainage when the mains water scheme operates in the district.

It is regrettable that the Ministry should have deferred for twelve months proposals for resewering and the provision of new works at Croughton, Chipping Warden, Culworth and Chacombe.

Closet Accommodation. Conversions of privy middens and pail closets into water closets proceeds at a very retarded pace due to the lack of proper sewerage facilities which I have already referred to.

When sewerage facilities are available a programme can be made for wholesale conversions.

Water Supply. Due to the unusually dry summer parts of the district suffered from shortage of water and in the cases of Lower Boddington, Middleton Cheney and Culworth the Council arranged for water to be obtained from the Brackley Borough Supply and carried to these villages for drinking purposes.

This created a very unsatisfactory and unhappy state of affairs to all concerned. A generous supply of wholesome water for all domestic purposes is an essential requisite for every family, in fact, without it the health and well being of the family is severely prejudiced. The difficulties of the farmers, and particularly those engaged in dairying, were greatly increased.

How important it is for the Council's mains water supply scheme to be proceeded with as speedily as possible. Samples of water taken during this and past years shew more than half the number to be heavily or grossly contaminated with coliform organisms. One wonders on occasions just how this district had avoided an outbreak of water-borne infection. Providence has indeed been kind to us. Nevertheless the risk will always be there until a public mains supply becomes a *fait accompli*.

Much time is spent by the Sanitary Inspectors in holding vigilance over water supplies in the district and advising boiling or chlorination where necessary.

The various parishes or districts where sampling took place, the number of samples taken from each parish or district, and the results of the samples are as follows, viz :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Aynho	13	7	6
Boddington	8	5	3
Chacombe	2	1*	1
Charlton	4	2	2
Chipping Warden	4	3	1
Croughton	5	1	4
Culworth	2	1	1
Evenley	10	5	5
Eydon	8	4	4
Farthinghoe	2	1	1
Greatworth	4	1	3
Helmdon	14	6	8
Kings Sutton	1	—	1
Middleton Cheney	5	1	4
Sulgrave	4	1	3
Syresham	2	1	1
Thenford	1	—	1
Thorpe Mandeville	3	—	3
Whitfield	2	1	1
	94	41 or 43.6%	53 or 56.4%

* *This sample was chemically analysed.*

Summary of Result of Water Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination during past 10 years.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken and examined</i>	<i>Result</i>	
		<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
1940	0	0	0
1941	15	2	13
1942	8	1	7
1943	64	20	44
1944	78	29	49
1945	63	37	26
1946	70	25	45
1947	58	16	42
1948	63	28	35
1949	94	41	53
TOTALS	513	199	314
			61.21% <i>Unsatisfactory</i>

Public Cleansing. A systematic collection of house refuse is in operation throughout the district.

The Parishes are served as follows :—

<i>Village</i>	<i>Date of Collection</i>	<i>Refuse Tip</i>
King's Sutton	Alternate Thursdays	All refuse is now taken to Moreton Pinkney, Greatworth or Charlton.
Aynho	Alternate Thursdays	
Middleton Cheney	Alternate Thursdays	
Chacombe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Chipping Warden	First Wednesday in each month	
Aston-le-Walls	First Monday in each month	
Boddingtons	First Monday in each month	
Eydon	Second Monday in each month	
Thenford	First Tuesday in each month	
Thorpe Mandeville	First Wednesday in each month	
Marston St. Lawrence	Second Tuesday in each month	
Culworth	First Wednesday in each month	
Moreton Pinkney	Second Monday in each month	
Greatworth	First Monday in each month	
Sulgrave	Second Wednesday in each month	
Helmdon	Second Wednesday in each month	
Radstone	Third Wednesday in each month	
Charlton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Croughton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	First Tuesday in each month	
Evenley	First Tuesday in each month	
Whitfield	Third Wednesday in each month	
Syresham	Third Wednesday in each month	
Farthinghoe	Second Tuesday in each month	

I should like to see the provision of more sanitary dustbins for the proper storage of household refuse. This would not only be in the interests of public health but would greatly facilitate in the collection of the refuse.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The Sanitary Inspectors have again been very active in making a total of 2,383 inspections.

An increased total of 180 complaints having been received, all of which were promptly investigated. 63 were made in writing ; 63 by telephone and 54 verbally.

There were 148 Preliminary and 19 Statutory Notices served. Of the Statutory Notices 16 were complied with in 1949 and it is expected that the others will be complied with in due course.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits to Premises during 1949.

Inspections—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	344
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	209
Inspections—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	422
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	756
Works completed without Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
Food Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Notices complied with (including food premises)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162

Visits to :—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Public Houses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Schools...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Drains partly re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rat infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the Year
1949.

Details of work completed.

	Total
Roof renewed or repaired	40
Chimney Stack repaired or renewed	17
Gutters repaired or renewed	9
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	4
External walls repaired or re-pointed	21
Waterproofing of internal walls	12
Damp proof course provided	—
Permanent ventilation provided	—
Wall plaster repaired...	56
Ceiling plaster repaired	58
Walls cleaned or redecorated	69
Ceilings cleaned or redecorated	68
Windows repaired or renewed	27
Sashcord provided	—
Doors repaired or renewed	17
Floors repaired or renewed	38
Stairs repaired or renewed	13
Window and door sills repaired	9
Plinth provided	1
Through ventilation provided	1
Yard or passage surface paved	12
Firegrates or ranges repaired or renewed	16
New sink provided	24
New waste pipe to sink provided	10
Separate water supply provided	3
Sub-floor ventilation provided	—
Washing copper repaired or renewed	3
Wash-house rebuilt or repaired	3
Ventilated food store provided	7
Food store repaired or improved	2
Verminous rooms disinfested	5
Staircase handrails provided	—
Wells repaired or cleansed	4
Washing Accommodation provided	2
Water Supply improved	1
Houses closed or demolished	2
Miscellaneous Housing items	3

Sanitary Conveniences.

Separate accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
New W.C.'s provided complete	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
New W.C. basin provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
W.C. cistern repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C. compartment repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Closets limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New pails to closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Privies Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New Urinals built	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Lavatory Basins	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

Drainage.

Drains examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
Premises drained to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Soil pipe or vent-shaft repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection chamber provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Fresh air inlet fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Vent-shaft provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
New septic tanks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Complete new drainage installed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous drainage items	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Nuisances.

Offensive accumulation removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisance from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Watercourse cleared and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Shops and Offices. No action has been taken under the Shops Acts regarding the maintenance of suitable temperatures. Most of the shops in the district are small and usually the only persons employed are members of the Shopkeeper's family.

Camping Sites. A fairly big gipsy camp was established for a while in the parish of Middleton Cheney. When the owner of the land was required to provide suitable water and closet accommodation in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936, he chose to get rid of the campers instead.

Smoke Abatement. It was unnecessary to take any action.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no public swimming places in the district requiring inspection.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. No action was necessary.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

As will be seen from a perusal of the "Statement of Housing Progress" (Page 14) the Council have built 117 houses since the last war whilst 96 houses were under construction at the end of 1949.

Temporary housing accommodation is provided for 138 families in Camp sites at Aynho (5), Charlton (10), Croughton (22), Syresham (9), (Silverstone) and Chipping Warden (92). Every effort has been made to make these families comfortable and to feel they are really at home. Water and electricity is laid on to each hut which also possesses a water closet and sink. Many of these huts appear quite cosy and comfortable from a peep inside; the majority of the gardens are well cultivated and in the summer months some of them are bright and gay with flowers.

There are also 48 families housed in premises requisitioned by the Council.

The Council are building new houses as fast as permission can be obtained from the Ministry of Health and I would like to say how pleasing and well designed are those already completed on the New Estates.

Despite this creditable record the waiting list for Council houses in certain parishes is still very considerable and it is hoped the Council will be able to maintain or even increase their programme for new houses.

Meanwhile the deterioration of much of the cottage property continues whilst the Sanitary Inspectors do all they possibly can under really difficult circumstances to patch and mend many old and worn-out cottages which would, in normal times, be considered only for demolition.

Even now condemned cottages are, of necessity, occupied by families who have not yet been successful in finding or being provided with better homes. I do feel, however, in the interests of public health that when such cottages become dispossessed the Council should decide not to allow them to be reoccupied again and arrange for demolition.

Housing Act, 1949. The Act came into operation during the year and removed that contentious phrase "houses for the working classes" which was included in previous housing legislation. The Council's duty now is in regard to the housing needs of the community as a whole.

Under this Act temporary provision was made for the quashing of Demolition Orders made prior to 1st January, 1946, provided that works

carried out subsequently on the properties were such that they could be considered to be then fit for human habitation. Application was to be made by the 31st July, 1950. Only one application was received by this Council but not proceeded with by the applicant.

The Act also empowers Local Authorities to make grants to private owners for the improvement of existing dwellings and for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses and other buildings.

Two applications have been received, one of which qualified for a grant.

Demolition Orders. Orders were made in respect to four houses, viz :—

Middleton Cheney	...	...	...	1
Upper Boddington	...	...	...	1
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	...	...	...	2

One other house was put forward for demolition but an undertaking was received by the Council that it would not be used for human habitation.

Houses demolished in 1949 totalled 7 as follows :

Syresham (Bell Lane)	...	...	3
Greatworth (The Close)	...	...	2
Crowfield	...	...	2
			<hr/>
			7
			<hr/>

Overcrowding. From the list of applications for Council houses the number of cases of overcrowding recorded during the last four years is 85. During that period up to December, 1949, the Council completed 117 dwelling houses and of that number, 36 were allocated to families who were living in overcrowded conditions.

Taking into consideration the number of houses subject to Demolition Orders and the number of houses where there were two or three families living in one house, plus the priority given to agricultural workers, in which cases houses have been allocated, it appears to me a creditable achievement to have abated such a good percentage of overcrowding cases.

Statement of Housing Progress
(i.e., provision of new houses)

	<i>Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position</i>						<i>Post-war Housing Programme</i>					Total No. of Houses owned by Council
	Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930.	Housing Acts 1935 and 1936.	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.	Undeveloped Sites.	Developed Sites Houses not begun.	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Houses under Construction.	Houses Completed.	
Aston le Walls				16		16						16
Aynho ...						—					6	6
Boddington ...		4			2	6	6		8	8		6
Chacombe ...			3	14		17					2	19
Chipping Warden						—					21	21
Croughton ...	6		2			8	5		6	6		8
Culworth ...	6		5	10		21	14					21
Edgcote ...						—						—
Evenley ...						—					11	11
Eydon ...	8			4		12	8					12
Farthinghoe ...	2		6		2	10			4	4		10
Greatworth ...	8		8			16			4	4		16
Helmdon ...	8			8		16					10	26
Hinton in the Hedges ...						—			6	6		—
Kings Sutton	18		8	40		66	24	12	12	12	16	82
Marston St. Lawrence	6					6			6		6	12
Middleton Cheney	20		22	30		72	8		22	22	26	98
Moreton Pinkney				8		8			9	9		8
Newbottle ...	6		12			18	7		6	6		18
Radstone ...						—						—
Sulgrave ...	8		6			14	6					14
Syresham ...	10		4	24		38		5	13	13	13	51
Thenford ...						—						—
Thorpe Mandeville	6					6					6	12
Warkworth ...						—						—
Whitfield ...						—			6	6		—
	112	4	76	154	4	350	78	17	102	96	117	467

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	766
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,731
2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	344
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	553
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	115

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	124
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	115
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	22
(b)	By local Authority in default of owners	—

(c) **Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	7

(d) **Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	—

4. **HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART 4—OVERCROWDING.**

Please read remarks on page 13 which make some reference to overcrowding.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises Generally. A considerable amount of time has been devoted as in previous years by the Public Health Staff in visiting all places where food intended for human consumption is dealt with.

As mentioned in previous Annual Reports the majority of the food premises in this district are rather old structurally, and although in most cases they are kept clean it would be far easier for the shopkeepers to do this and somewhat of a relief to the Health Staff if many of these old premises could be brought up to a more modern standard structurally. There are some notable exceptions, however, where shops have been modernised or considerably improved in relation to the particular food trade carried on.

I am pleased to report that no case of food poisoning was notified in the district during the year.

I am also pleased that the Council decided to adopt the Model Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Food for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air. This will prove very helpful to your Officers.

Milk Supply and Control. The “appointed day” under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, by which the control of conditions under which milk is produced passed from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture was the 1st October, 1949.

Local Authorities are now left with the registration and control of milk distributors only and for the issuing of dealer's licences in respect to Designated Milks. The number of milk distributors in this district is 33.

During the year 130 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to cowsheds and dairies in regard to clean milk production.

A total of 80 milk samples were taken, only 50% of which satisfied the methylene blue test to which they were subjected. This was not a very encouraging result, especially when compared with the number of good samples obtained in previous years, as will be seen upon reference to the comparative results over the past ten years. Possibly the unusually long spell of hot weather during last summer, coupled with the scarcity of water so necessary for cooling the milk and cleansing utensils, had some bearing on the result. It is noticeable that more than one third of the Designated milk samples taken by the County Council failed the test.

It remains to be seen whether better results will be achieved by the Ministry of Agriculture in regard to the production of safe and clean milk than was the case when the Local Authorities were in control. After all is said and done the production of milk in a rural district is surely a rural industry best controlled locally and especially if given adequate staff and better Regulations with which to work, which appears likely to be enjoyed by the Ministry of Agriculture. As it is now, I feel that undue overlapping of officials and some complication is likely.

RESULTS OF DESIGNATED MILK SAMPLES (i.e., "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited") TAKEN IN THE BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT BY THE NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL DURING THE YEAR 1949

Parish	Total Samples Taken	Methylene Blue Test	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Aston le Walls	12	8	4
Aynho	17	14	3
Boddington	14	9	5
Chacombe	7	5	2
Charlton	—	—	—
Chipping Warden	10	2	8
Croughton	12	9	3
Culworth	14	12	2
Edgcote	8	6	2
Evenley	17	13	4
Eydon	7	5	2
Farthinghoe	35	27	8
Greatworth	69	53	16
Helmdon	17	15	2
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	10	6	4
Kings Sutton	46	30	16
Marston St. Lawrence	17	11	6
Middleton Cheney	5	5	—
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—
Radstone	25	17	8
Sulgrave	10	8	2
Syresham	33	27	6
Thenford	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	31	17	14
Warkworth	—	—	—
Whitfield	7	6	1
TOTALS	423	305	118

Comparative results of sampling (methylene blue test) by the Public Health Department, Brackley Rural District Council, over past ten years:

Year	Total	Result					
		Good		Moderate		Bad	
1940	66	25	40%	14	20%	27	40%
1941	73	40	55%	14	19%	19	26%
1942	54	31	55%	12	23%	11	22%
1943	53	34	64%	9	17%	10	19%
1944	53	37	70%	13	24%	3	5%
1945	46	15	34%	10	21%	21	45%
1946	31	24	77.5%	—	—	7	22.5%
1947	36	28	77.8%	4	11.1%	4	11.1%
1948	19	12	63.2%	3	15.8%	4	21.0%
1949	80	40	50.0%	17	21.3%	23	28.7%

Ice Cream. By the end of 1949 there were twelve ice cream premises in the district and in one case only are the premises registered for manufacture of the commodity where very good results were obtained upon sampling. The remaining places are registered for the sale only of prepacked ice cream and this means that it is sold by the Retailer in clean wrappers or cartons as received from the Manufacturer, which considerably reduces the risks in handling. In every case a report on the condition of the manufacturer's premises is obtained from the appropriate Public Health Department, which ensures that ice cream is coming into this district only from satisfactory registered establishments.

During the summer months all premises are visited at least once a month, 75 inspections having been made during the year, whilst samples are taken monthly and subjected to a methylene blue reduction test. The ice cream vendor is notified of the result of the test, as is the Public Health Authority in whose district it was manufactured.

Over a period from June to November 49 ice cream samples were taken, the results of which were : 24 Grade 1, 10 Grade 2, 12 Grade 3, and 3 Grade 4.

Inns and Public Houses. Each of these licensed premises is now provided with satisfactory sanitary accommodation for use of the customers. Wherever it has been practicable waterclosets and flushing facilities for urinals have been provided. In some cases, due to the absence of available sewers, Elsan closets are in use for the time being.

Due to the co-operative attitude of the various Brewery Companies with the Public Health Department a number of premises have been fitted with supplies of hot and cold water over sinks in the bars for the washing of drinking glasses. It is not always possible to provide these facilities owing to the unavailability of a suitable water supply or drainage, or both. Schemes of main drainage and water supply will eventually solve such problems.

Provision Shops, Dining Rooms, Fish Shops, Butchers, Bakehouses, etc. Two hundred and forty eight inspections were made to these premises where the introduction of the elementary principles of food hygiene is continuously encouraged by the Public Health Staff. It is still too often discovered that an unsatisfactory food preparation room exists behind an otherwise satisfactory shop.

	<i>No. in District</i>	<i>No. of Visits</i>
No. of Provision Shops	45	71
No. of Butchers' Shops	12	29
No. of Dining Rooms	5	4
No. of Public Houses or Inns	41	63
No. of Bakehouses	12	33
No. of Registered Cowkeepers	194	130
No. of Ice Cream Shops	12	75
No. of Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	5	30
No. of Greengrocers and Fruiterers	7	6

DETAILS OF REPAIRS OR IMPROVEMENTS TO FOOD PREMISES

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	23
Accumulation of manure removed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Impervious floor provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Additional ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairy cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	18
Proper dairy provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Additional lighting provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yard surfaces cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Proper facilities for sterilizing	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	2

Slaughterhouses.

Slaughterhouse cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	—
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	—

Bakehouses.

Bakehouse cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	20
Benches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	1
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	...	1

Food Preparing Premises, Shops, Stalls, Etc.

Premises cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Benches etc., cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Waste foodstuffs and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	...	2
Adequate food storage facilities provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mobile fish and chips van equipped	...	...	...	...	...	1
New fried fish shop	...	...	...	...	...	1
Apparatus and utensils cleansed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	—

Cafes and Public Houses.

Structural repairs made	...	...	...	...	...	1
Apparatus and utensils cleansed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	1

Meat and Foods Inspection. The amount of food condemned during the year is set out in the following table.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>		<i>Disease or Condition</i>
	lbs.	ozs.	
Beef : Brisket	2	—	Neoplasm.
Part of Hindquarter	13	8	Neoplasm.
Part of Hindquarter (Imported)	26	—	Bone Taint.
Mutton	36	—	Decomposed.
Pigs Trotters	117	—	Slimy and putrifying condition.
Tinned Veal Loaf	10	2½	Blown, decomposed and mouldy.
Minced Beef Loaf	1	8	Blown, leaky and decomposing.
Pork and Beef		12	Decomposed.
Porkam		11½	Decomposed and mouldy
Pork		12	Blown tin.
Pilchards		15	Blown tin.
Sardines		4½	Damaged and leaky.
Milk	19	2	Blown, leaky and decomposed.
Marmalade	4	—	Damaged and leaky.
Melon and Lemon Jam	4	—	Pierced and leaky.
Apricot Conserve	1	8	Leaky tin.
Peach Jam	2	—	Leaky tin.
Grapes	3	12	Pierced and leaky.
Plums	2	4	Blown, damaged and leaky.
Tomatoes	1	13	Blown tin.
Peas	7	3	Blown and leaky tins.
Beans	2	½	Blown tins.
Spinach	2	6	Blown tins.
Strained Vegetables		4½	Damaged and leaky.
Tomato Sauce		14	Leaky tins.
Tomato Soup	2	—	Blown tins.
Celery Soup	1	—	Blown tin.
Vegetable Soup		15½	Damaged and leaky.
	264lbs.	12oz.	

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

So far as infectious diseases are concerned 1949 may be considered a satisfactory year.

There was no serious epidemic and only 27 cases were notified as against 164 in the previous year, the highest proportion of which was due to measles.

One case only of scarlet fever occurred as against six in the previous year.

No case of diphtheria was notified.

The following table sets forth the nature of the various diseases and shows the distribution of the cases throughout the parishes in the district.

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis)

IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES

during the year, 1949.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Erysipelas</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Polio- myelitis</i>	<i>Food Poisoning</i>	<i>Cerebro-Spin- al Meningitis</i>	<i>Ophthalmia Neonatorum</i>	<i>TOTALS</i>
Aston le Walls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aynho	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Boddington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chacombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Charlton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chipping Warden ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croughton	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Culworth... ..	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	4
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eydon	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	5
Farthinghoe	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Greatworth	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Helmdon... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hinton-in-the-Hedges ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kings Sutton	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Marston St. Lawrence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Middleton Cheney ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Moreton Pinkney ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syresham	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Thenford... ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Thorpe Mandeville ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	—	—	1	17	8	—	—	—	—	27

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Over past 10 years

(Other than Tuberculosis)

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	35	25	18	13	12	10	7	5	6	1	132
Diphtheria ...	3	11	7	7	2	1	—	—	1	—	32
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	9
Pneumonia ...	4	5	4	3	4	2	1	3	2	—	28
Erysipelas ...	3	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	2	1	13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	8
Measles ...	245	120	10	104	6	116	13	49	137	17	817
Whooping Cough ...	12	50	6	4	54	12	2	8	12	8	168
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
Polio Encephalitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio Myelitis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	4
Catarrhal Jaundice ...	—	—	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	9
Malaria ...	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	6
Chicken Pox ...	—	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	7
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	8
Mumps ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Amoebiasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	311	213	54	144	92	154	27	68	164	27	1254

PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES—1949.

A statement shewing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder:

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ...	—	—	—	1	8	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	17
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	8
Polio Myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	—	—	2	10	6	6	—	—	1	—	—	27

Tuberculosis—All new cases of tuberculosis, respiratory or non-respiratory, are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. Institutional care, when considered necessary, is arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health and County Tuberculosis Officer in the County Sanatoria.

The living conditions, etc., of persons subsequently discharged from these sanatoria are investigated by this Authority.

During the year 4 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 3 being of a respiratory nature and 1 non-respiratory.

The following table gives the incidence of new cases with their age distribution.

New Cases during 1949

<i>Age Periods Years</i>	<i>New Cases</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0 — 1	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	1	—	—
15 — 25	—	1	—	1
25 — 35	1	—	—	—
35 — 45	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	—	1

MISCELLANEOUS.
Police Court Proceedings.

1. Court where heard. 2. Date of hearing. 3. Parties concerned.	Offence.	Result of Legal Action.
1. Middleton Cheney Petty Sessions. 2. 20/4/49. 3. Brackley R.D.C. <i>v.</i> J. G. Fox, Cross Lane, Helmdon	Failure to abate a nuisance under Public Health Act, 1936.	Order made for interior of cottage to be cleans- ed within 14 days. Defendant to pay costs.
1. Brackley Petty Sessions. 2. 4/5/49. 3. Brackley R.D.C. <i>v.</i> Thomas & Sons, Charlton.	Contravention of the Building Byelaws.	Defendant fined £3 and ordered to pay costs.

